

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.
RICHMOND, March 27.—We had on yesterday, I think, the best speech of the Convention, from Ballard Preston. It was not an oratorical effort of any high order, but was practical, argumentative, and at times abounding in some pleasing flights. His general style, manner, and language were quite good. His speech, I think, will be more generally read by the masses than any other. The Convention, under its late rule, begins work early and works late. Last night it did not adjourn until 10½ o'clock.—The secessionists are now clearly indicating by their action that they are not "prompt action" men. They are interposing obstacles for delay. On yesterday, Hall of Wetzel, of the majority, the Constitution of the Confederate States. I am inclined to think that it took the secessionists by surprise. They moved an adjournment, and when defeated, endeavored to have it withdrawn. For three hours and more, great confusion reigned. The secessionists sought to prevent action on the Convention, and refused to adjourn, and at 10 o'clock voted it down, nearly all the secessionists leaving the Hall in order to prevent a quorum.

The people will perceive two things: First, that the secessionists are delaying by parliamentary filibustering the prompt action of the Convention on the interesting and grave subjects before them.

Secondly, that they have repudiated the Constitution of the Cotton State Confederacy, for they received no vote—yet their own action, did not vote for it.

It is this system of parliamentary tactics adopted by the secessionists to stave off action on the various competing propositions now before the Convention, it is impossible to say when the Convention will adjourn.—The majority, the Union men, will do all they can to hasten final action. They have gone to work, and the eyes and noses will show who are for action, and who are for delay. The proceedings of the Legislature will show that the secessionists, satisfied that this Convention will not put Virginia out of the Union, have inaugurated a scheme in the Legislature to accomplish this end.—Mr. Tomlin, of King William, has introduced a bill to submit the question to the people, whether they are for the Northern Union or the Southern Union. Did you ever see such a blinking of the real issue? The people will see through all such thin disguises.

MARRIED.

At Sailor's Rest, on Thursday, the 21st inst., by Rev. S. Govey, Mr. ADAM F. LOY and Miss HANNAH A. FRY, all of Loudoun.

DIED.

At the residence of her husband, in Albemarle county, on the night of the 24th inst., Mrs. RIVES, consort of Alexander Rives, esq.

In West End, Fairfax County, Va., on the 24th inst., JAMES CLINTON, son of James and Mary Cawling, aged 3 years, 5 months and 18 days.

Of typhoid fever, at his residence in Calvert county, Md., on the 24th inst., Mr. THOMAS B. GIBBONS, in the 70th year of his age.

At his residence in Nottingham District, Md., on the 24th inst., EDWARD LLOYD PERRIE, esq., in about the 70th year of his age.

At his residence, near Crown, in Prince George's county, Md., on the 25th inst., Mr. ROBERT W. RYON, in about the 28th year of his age.

After a prolonged illness of Consumption, on the 19th inst., Mrs. REBECCA CHINN, daughter of the late Walter Beigun, of London, in the 54th year of her age.

On the 18th inst., Mr. REBECCA WATERS, widow of the late Robert Waters, of Anne Arundel county, aged 97 years.

On Friday morning last, the 22d inst., at his residence, in the upper end of Fauquier, Mr. WILLIAM BYRNE, in the 74th year of his age. Mr. B. was the father of our most highly respected citizens, John S. Byrne, esq., Clerk of Fauquier Circuit Court.

Mr. LUCY NEWMAN, consort of Mr. Reuben Newman, of Orange county, died suddenly at the residence of her father, Col. Welch, in Madison county, on Tuesday last.

1861. ALEXANDRIA. 1861.

THIRD MONTH. SUN. MON. TUE. WED. THUR. FRI. SAT. MOON'S PHASES.

29 Friday..... 4 49 6 22 Last. 2 1 16.4
30 Saturday..... 4 47 6 21 Last. 2 1 16.4
1 Sunday..... 4 46 6 20 First. 21 13.3
2 Tuesday..... 4 44 6 18 First. 21 13.3
3 Wednesday..... 4 42 6 16 First. 21 13.3
4 Thursday..... 4 40 6 14 First. 21 13.3

PORT OF ALEXANDRIA—MARCH 28.

Schr. Constitution, Gilroy, Mattawoman, wheat to Thomas Perry.

Steamer St. Nicholas, Korwin, Baltimore, to Wheat & Bro.

Steamer Diamond State, Jones, Baltimore, to Wheat & Bro.

Brig Gordon, Sabin, Fall River, by T. J. McChesley.

Brig Minerva, Jefferson, Fall River, by Borden Mining Co.

Schr. Wm. Allen, Cranmer, New York, by B. M. Franks.

MEMORANDA.

Schr. Orreeta, Sammis, sailed from New York for this port, 24th inst.

Schr. Globe, Ames, from Warren, R. I., for this port, arrived at Newport, 26th inst.

CANAL COMMERCE.

Boats Union, E. H. Tracy, and R. M. Sprigg, east to T. J. McChesley.

Boats Thomas, James, Susquehanna, C. Slack, and Wm. Kinser, coal to American Coal Co.

Boat A. Ringhard, coal to Borden Mining Co.

Boat Three Brothers, coal to Flouring Coal Co.

Boats C. E. Debnold, and Kate McCormac, coal to B. M. Franks.

Boat J. W. Barnes, coal for Washington, D. C.

STAR FIRE COMPANY.—A meeting of the Star Fire Company will be held at the Engine House, on MONDAY EVENING NEXT, April 1st, at 7½ o'clock.

It is the intention of the Company to comply with the law, so as to be exempt from militia duty. Persons wishing to join the Company will please send their names presented at the meeting.

By E. S. LEADBEATER, Secretary.

NEW BOOKS.—Autobiography of the Rev. Dr. Alexander Carlyle, Minister of Inveresk, containing Memoirs of the Man and Events of his Time, price \$1.20.

The Science of Education and the Art of Teaching, by John Ogden, A. M., third edition, 11, 25.

Edie Yemmer, a Romance of Destiny, by Oliver Wendell Holmes, in two volumes, "The Art of the Breakfast Table," in the volume, \$1.75.

Help Heavenward, or Words of Strength and Heart-Comfort to Zion's Travellers, by Octavius Winslow, D. D., 50c.

Brown and Arthing, an Episode from the "Tom Brown's School Days," arranged for the press, by a Mother, etc., just published, and for sale by J. N. LEADBEATER, Secretary.

COUNTRY MERCHANTS.—We take pleasure in informing you that we are now prepared to offer you a large and desirable assortment of DRY AND SHOE, of every variety of our own manufacture, at prices as low as for Northern work, and respectfully ask an examination before you make your purchases.

Also, we have a large and well assorted stock of STRAW, FUR, and WOOL HATS, comprising a great many new and desirable styles.

sub 29—C. A. BALDWIN & CO.

CHLORIDE LIME.—One case Chloride Lime, of best quality, just received, and for sale in quantities to suit purchasers.

sub 29—HENRY COOK & CO., Sarepta Hall.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, March 28th.—The higher branch of the National Legislature, the Senate of the United States, adjourned sine die about 3 o'clock this afternoon, after passing favorably upon every name upon the Executive docket. Although the list is large, you will probably receive by telegraph this evening, the names of those who have been favored by the President and the Senate, and the positions to which they have been assigned.

There were four confirmations of high diplomatic interest, upon which I will dwell for a few moments.

You may recollect that this correspondence first announced to the public that Cassius M. Clay, of Kentucky, had peremptorily declined the mission to the court of Madrid. This was denied in many journals some days afterwards, but the proceedings of the Senate today, establishes the fact of the refusal of Mr. Clay to accept the honor conferred upon him.

Carl Schurz, a native of Germany, but who hails from the State of Wisconsin, was confirmed as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the court of Spain. You will perceive that I have understood a word in the preceding sentence.

The selection of this gentleman, who is known to be an avowed foe to the cause of the secession, is a mark of the policy of the Union men, in my humble opinion, an unsuitable, injudicious, and extraordinary one. It cannot be doubted that this view will be taken by the appointment by an overwhelming majority of the people of the United States, irrespective of party predilections. When the name of Mr. Schurz was announced in the Senate, a division was called for, but there were but a few votes in opposition to the confirmation.

The press of the country has been singularly regarded and honored by the President, in the appointment to important positions abroad of Messrs. Harvey, Pike and Fogg. James S. Harvey, the new Minister to Portugal, is a native of South Carolina, a gentleman of fine education, genial in disposition, affable in manners, a graceful and elegant writer. He has been a member of the "Philadelphia North American" as correspondent and editor nearly twenty years. There is, and there should be at all times, an esprit de corps with those associated with the press, and Mr. Harvey is one of its most esteemed and shining members.

James S. Pike, the new Minister to the Hague, is a native of Maine, a writer of high power, and an associate editor of the New York Tribune.

George G. Fogg, of New Hampshire, just confirmed as Minister Resident at the Court of Bern, Switzerland, is said by a friend of mine from the Gazette State, to whom I implicitly rely, to be a gentleman of talents, and has been for years an Editor of a leading Journal in his State.

The mission to St. Petersburg has been conferred on Cassius M. Clay, and his nomination went through the Senate without opposition. It is understood that some of the friends of the indomitable Cassius expressed themselves to the President in terms something like these:

We announce to you—with all proper respect, we warn you, Mr. President, that the anti-slavery Democracy of the country will not be satisfied, or rather will be exceedingly indignant, if Mr. Clay fails to receive some distinguished mark of the esteem in which he is held by the Republic. President Lincoln's tender of some honorable position which will prove acceptable to him.

A dozen or more "yellow envelopes," in which were enclosed brief notes signed by Caleb B. Smith, Secretary of the Interior, addressed to clerks in the Land office, and the Census Bureau, informing them that their "services were no longer required," were delivered by the messengers today.

The appointment of Dr. Fisher, of Virginia, for the Marshalship of the district of Virginia was made out and placed before the President, but he laid it aside, having determined to withdraw it for the present.

No nomination of a Judge for the Supreme Court communicated by the President to the Senate.

COMMERCIAL.

Alexandria Market, March 28.

The market for flour was inactive, and prices are very light. The offerings for wheat were fair. The market for corn was quiet, and prices were good to prime quality. The receipts of corn are good. There were sales of 2½ for white, and yellow at 50c. The offerings of type on "Change" are small, with a few demand, others are quiet and prices are unchanged.

New York Market.

New York, March 28.—Cotton advanced 1½¢; sugar 1¢; flour 1¢; wheat 1¢; corn 1¢; pork 1¢; lard 1¢; butter 1¢; eggs 1¢; oil 1¢; tallow 1¢; soap 1¢; candles 1¢; hardware 1¢; dry goods 1¢; miscellaneous 1¢.

Baltimore Cattle Market, March 28.

DEER CATTLE.—The offerings at the Sales to-day reached 300 head, of which 100 were sold to Philadelphia, 100 to New York, and the balance sold for local consumption. The market was quiet, and prices were good to prime quality. The receipts of cattle are good. There were sales of 2½ for white, and yellow at 50c. The offerings of type on "Change" are small, with a few demand, others are quiet and prices are unchanged.

New York Cattle Market, March 28.

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THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

[REPORTED FOR THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.]

In Senate, Thursday, March 28.

Mr. Trumbull introduced a resolution declaring that in the opinion of the Senate the true way to preserve the Union is to maintain its laws; that the doctrine of anti-secession is destructive of the Union, and that it is the duty of the President of the United States to enforce the laws of the Federal Government in the seceding States as well as any other of the Union.

Mr. Trumbull said he offered it as expressive of his views, and hoped it would at once be voted upon.

Mr. Clingman demanded the yeas and nays.

Mr. Sumner moved to go into executive session.

Mr. Hale wanted the resolution to lay over a short time. While he was a member of the Senate he did not feel willing to assume power which his constituency was not entitled to, nor to give the President advice not according with the rules of the Senate and Constitution.

Mr. Foster wanted to know if Senator Hale did not think the Senate was any right to go into a speech upon that subject pending a motion.

Mr. Hale said he intended to express his opinion upon the resolution, and it should not be so rejected till he had done so.

Mr. Powell desired to call up a resolution introduced a few days since, relative to the dispatches from Major Anderson to the War Department. He thought that as the President had decided not to publish them, it was due to Major Anderson that the resolution, President's message, and debate therein, should be printed.

Mr. Collamer objected to debate, and demanded the yeas and nays on the motion to go into executive session, resulting—yeas 25, nays 11.

So the Senate went into executive session, and having spent some time therein, adjourned sine die.

The overland express, with San Francisco advices to the 13th inst., arrived at Fort Kearney on Monday last. Commercial affairs continued dull. The Legislature of California was still engaged in balloting for a United States Senator, making but slow progress however. Commodore Cunningham died at San Francisco, on the morning of the 13th. The steamer Golden Gate sailed on the 19th for Panama, with 100 passengers and nearly a million of treasure. Accounts from the Sandwich Islands to the 14th ult. had reported San Francisco. The steamer Wyoming, the vessel sent in search of the missing schooner Levant—arrived at Honolulu on the 10th, after a fruitless voyage. It was believed that the Levant encountered the severe gales that swept the Pacific Ocean between the 24 and 26th of October last, and that the ship and all on board had perished.

The Washington Correspondent of the New York Tribune says—"Officers were sent from here ten days ago to the District of Texas to retain a portion of the dispersed troops there subject to the order of Governor Houston, in representing any attempt to overthrow the State authority. Other orders were also sent to officers in remote parts of the State, to concentrate at a given point as promptly as possible, for the purpose of cooperating in this movement."

Captain John W. Smoot one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Port Tobacco, Charles County, Md., died on the 24th instant, in the war with Great Britain, in 1812. He commanded a company of brave veterans and through the heat and toil of many a hard-fought battle in his country's cause, won laurels of which the proud might well be proud.

The President has made the following nominations for Justices of the Peace for the District of Columbia, viz: Wm. A. King, Crawford Powell, Daniel Rowland, Nicholas Callan, J. N. Pearson, Terrence Drury, Alfred Ray, Thaddeus Sturgis, John H. Hollingshead, Samuel Drury, Henry Haw, Edgar H. Bates, and Thomas Carberry.

We are indebted to several members of the Virginia Legislature and Virginia Convention, for copies of Documents, Speeches, &c.

Joseph Wilson, esq., late Commissioner of the General Land Office, has been returned to his former position of Chief Clerk of that Bureau.

It is said that the Senate recently confirmed A. Judson Crane, as U. S. Attorney for the Eastern district of Virginia.

The April term of the Circuit Court, for Prince George's county, Md., will commence at Marlboro', on Monday next.

The distress, from want of employment in Baltimore, is said to be very great.

THE ARMY OF FIRE last night was caused by the light of a fire in Washington.

BOOKS, STATIONERY, MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.—We, I take it for granted every one knows what is meant by Books, Stationery, Music and Musical Instruments. I shall not, however, as it would take too much time and cost too much money to fill a newspaper. I will just say, my STOCK is complete and complete as at any time since I have been in Alexandria, and is being constantly replenished.

But, in addition to the above, I keep a large stock of *Electrician's Tools*, such as COMES of almost every style; Rubber and Steel Bands of almost every style; Finger and Ring Bands of all kinds; Hair, Restorative, Soaps, Perfumery, Tooth Paste, Shaving Creams, and Combs; Lip Salve, Powder Boxes and Lip White; Port Monies, Silk, Book Binding and All Purposes; Ladies' and Gentlemen's Travelling Articles; Rosewood, Mahogany and Havana Writing Cases; Portfolios, Card Cases, cigar Cases and Smokers; Pocket and Pen Knives, Sewing Silver Trunkers, Gold Pens, Indelible Marking Pens, Tablets, Rubber, Ivory and Steel Corset Needles, Ladies' Fans, Fancy Shawl Pins, Hairbrushes, Pins, Parlor and Foot Balls, Ivory and Pearl Paper Folders, Engraving and Impression Paper, Key Rings, Watch Keys, Tweezers, Call and Tea Balls, Watch Gears, Matches and Match Safes, Fishing Lines, Eye Glasses, and Spectacles, Court Cases, Rubber Bands, Chessmen, Pedicure Knives, Hair Brushes, Hair Pins, Hair Oil, Hair Cream, Hair Lotion, Hair Soap, and Hair Dressing.

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LOCAL ITEMS.

MEETING OF THE CORN EXCHANGE.—A meeting of merchants and business men was held at the Corn Exchange yesterday, at noon, for the purpose of adopting a remonstrance to the Legislature against the passage of a bill proposed to be offered in that body for a Railroad connection between Winchester and Strasburg.

James H. McVeigh was called to the Chair, and explained the object of the meeting.

Gen. B. Fowler offered the following resolutions, prefacing them with some explanatory remarks, and urging prompt action thereon.

Resolved, That the Railroad connection between the Strasburg and Winchester, projected by the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad Company, is in every view opposed to the commercial interests of Alexandria, and must necessarily lead to results highly injurious to our welfare, and to that of the State of Virginia.

Resolved, That our Senate and Delegates be requested to use every honorable means to prevent a Railroad connection between the points designated, or any connection whatever, in any and every form whatever.

Resolved, That from what we know of the feelings of this community upon this subject, we are satisfied that the foregoing resolutions express the sentiment of a large majority of our fellow-citizens.

Resolved, That—be requested to send a copy of these resolutions to our Senator and Delegate, and to use every effort in his power to carry out their object.

Resolved, That in the event of the absence or unwillingness of our Senator or Delegate to act in the matter, be authorized to bring it before the Legislature through such other medium as he may deem best.

The passage of the resolutions was advocated by Wm. H. Fowler, C. F. Suttle, R. M. Smith, and J. H. McVeigh, and the thanks of the 4th and 5th resolutions, on motion of C. F. Suttle, being filed, with the name of Wm. H. Fowler, the question was taken on their adoption, and carried nem. con.

The meeting then adjourned.

POTOMAC LAW.—An act to amend the act to amend the pilot laws in regard to the Potomac river. Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That the first section of an act to amend the act to amend the Pilot Laws in regard to the Potomac River, passed March 20, 1850, be repealed and re-enacted so as to read as follows:

SECTION 1. That the court of Alexandria county shall appoint five suitable persons to constitute a board of commissioners to examine persons applying for licenses as pilots for the river Potomac. The said board, when appointed, shall meet at Alexandria, and shall continue in office for three years from the dates of their appointment respectively. Every person applying to said board to be licensed as a branch pilot, shall satisfy them of his citizenship and of his good character, and the said board shall not appoint or license any person unless they are fully satisfied that he is qualified by experience to act as a pilot for the Potomac river, and shall send said board with good and sufficient security from every person they may license as a branch pilot, in the penalty of five hundred dollars for the faithful discharge of his duty, which they shall return to the clerk of the county court of Alexandria county, to be by him filed. They shall be allowed a fee of five dollars for each person they shall so license. The said board shall be renewed every year, and the board shall from time to time decide how many pilots are necessary.

Be it further enacted, That the third section of said act be repealed and re-enacted